

Until I finally tried
badmouthing my fellow machinists.
Immediately eyes lit up
and lengthy enthusiastic conversations began
that lasted 10 or 15 minutes or virtually as long as I wanted,
all kinds of other machinists and even supervisors wandering over
to join in and skewer and ridicule and character assassinate.

Being popular
just requires a little effort.

—Fred Voss

Long Beach, CA

SUGGESTIONS

On Monday I am told to punch out and go to conference room b.
In there I sit down in air conditioned comfort with my boss,
his boss, and a guy I don't know and I am told that the company
is buying two brand new Pfauter PE 320 numerically controlled
gear cutting machines, and do I have any suggestions for tooling
them up? In the 15 years I have been employed here no one has
ever asked me a question. I look at the invoice for the machines.
\$642,348.15. I look at the color brochure with a picture of the
machine. Then I look at the new floor plan for the gear
department, and notice that someone has very neatly scratched
off the old Gould & Eberhard gear cutting machine that I have
been running for 15 years, the most accurate and the most
reliable machine in there, and drawn in the two new machines.
I stand up, look at these men, pick up a pencil and redraw the
old G&E machine back into the floor plan, and put in the price,
"paid for one hundred times, keep it," sign my name, turn and
walk out of there and go back to say good-bye to the G&E.

—Gary Goude

Riverside, CA